

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 21

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Commemorating the Bicentennial of the Louisiana
Purchase.

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Whereas in 1803, the United States purchased the Louisiana Territory from France for a total of \$15,000,000;

Whereas President Thomas Jefferson designated Robert Livingston and James Monroe to negotiate the treaty with Napoleon Bonaparte;

Whereas the Louisiana Purchase included 827,987 square miles, nearly 600,000,000 acres, the largest single land purchase in our Nation's history;

Whereas the Louisiana Purchase territory stretched from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico and from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains, nearly doubling the size of the United States at that time;

Whereas this purchase enabled dramatic further westward expansion and helped fuel the Nation's rise as a world power;

Whereas 15 States or parts of States were carved out of the Louisiana Purchase territory, including Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming;

Whereas the land was acquired by peaceful means, in stark contrast to the usual methods of old-style empires, which often conquered new territories by force;

Whereas the acquisition secured the United States' trading abilities by guaranteeing its navigation rights on the Mississippi River and its ability to send goods through the Port of New Orleans for shipment to the Atlantic Coast and Europe; and

Whereas generations of Americans have benefited from President Jefferson's noble vision of America and his efforts at expanding our new Nation onto the continent: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
 2 *concurring)*, That the Congress celebrates the 200th anni-
 3 versary of the Louisiana Purchase, recognizes the extraor-

- 1 dinary work of the individuals involved in the transaction,
- 2 and is grateful for the tremendous part the event played
- 3 in fulfilling our Nation's Manifest Destiny.

Passed the House of Representatives September 23,
2003.

Attest:

Clerk.